

Message Text

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ORIGIN SY-04

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 ST-01 /015 R

DRAFTED BY A/SY/FO:ESCHEELE:JP

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A/SY/FO - BPFUSELIER

NEA/EX - DWILLIAMSON

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R 262115Z FEB 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 043568

E.O. 11652:GDS

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TAGS: ASEC

SUBJECT: FULLY ARMORED CAR

FOR RSO

1. SY/FO PROPOSES TO SEND DAMASCUS A FULLY ARMORED VEHICLE FOR USE BY COM. THIS VEHICLE HAS JUST BEEN COMPLETELY OVERHAULED IN THE D.C. AREA UNDER SY SUPERVISION.

2. THE VEHICLE IS A 1971 CHEVROLET IMPALA SEDAN, SERIAL NO. 16491C183125, VEHICLE INVENTORY NO. 5S0001. THIS CAR HAS A "POLICE PACKAGE" 400 CID, LOW COMPRESSION ENGINE OPERABLE ON LOCAL GASOLINE AND A HEAVY DUTY SUSPENSION SYSTEM. THE INTERIOR OF THE CAR IS PROTECTED BY GLASS REINFORCED PLASTIC FIBERGLASS IN THE DOORS, ROOF, FLOOR AND THE PASSENGER COMPARTMENT. THE OPAQUE AND TRANSPARENT SYSTEMS ARE CAPABLE OF DEFEATING .38 SPECIAL, .357 MAGNUM, .45 CALIBER AND 9MM PARABELLUM PISTOL AND SUBMACHINE GUN FIRE. THE TIRES HAVE SAFETY ROLLER INSERTS CAPABLE OF PROVIDING LIFT AND MANEUVERING CAPABILITY AFTER A TIRE HAS BEEN SHREDDED BY GRENADE OR WEAPONS FIRE. THE FRONT BUMPER IS REINFORCED WITH STEEL PIPE TO GIVE THE VEHICLE RAMMING
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CAPABILITY IN THE EVENT OF A VEHICULAR KIDNAP ATTEMPT OR

A ROAD BLOCK. THE GAS TANK, BATTERY AND THE RADIATOR AREA

ALSO HAVE FIBERGLASS PROTECTION. THE OUTWARD APPEARANCE OF THE VEHICLE IS NORMAL IN ALL RESPECTS. COLOR OF CAR IS BLUE.

3. THE ABOVE CAR WILL REMAIN UNDER GENERAL SY OPERATIONAL CONTROL. YOUR POST PROPOSED AS RECIPIENT THIS CAPABILITY BASED ON POSSIBLE THREATS AGAINST COM AND BASED ON DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN AMB MURPHY AND SY/FO REP ON AUGUST 22, 1974. IF SUCH THREATS ABATE IN FUTURE, CAR MAY BE SENT TO ANOTHER POST HAVING GREATER RELATIVE NEED. FYI, SY IS BUDGETED TO PROVIDE MAINTENANCE PARTS AND SERVICE FOR FULLY ARMORED CARS.

4. ABOVE VEHICLE WILL BE HELD PENDING NOTIFICATION OF ACCEPTANCE BY DAMASCUS OF ABOVE PROPOSAL.

5. WISH TO EMPHASIZE THAT ALTHOUGH VEHICLE PROPOSED IS 1971 MODEL, ENGINE AND ALL MECHANICAL SYSTEMS HAVE BEEN COMPLETELY RECONDITIONED; AND IN CLEANLINESS AND OVERALL APPEARANCE, VEHICLE COMPARES TO LATER MODELS. KISSINGER

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